(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for such imports?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Indian Railways are not importing any railway wagons. However, Container Corporation of India (CONCOR), a Public Sector Undertaking of the Ministry of Railways had invited bids for flat wagons for transportation of I.S.O. containers.

(b) Bids have been invited by CONCOR under international Competitive Bidding since the purchase is to be financed by a World Bank loan. Indian companies have also participated in the tender.

Tender has not yet been settled.

Development of agro-based units

*595. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK:
SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have asked the State Governments to prepare schemes for the establishment and development of agro-based units in their respective States;

(b) if so, the response of the State Governments thereto; and

(c) the details of steps taken by different State Governments to promote agro-based food processing units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) to (c) During the meetings with the State representatives and Nodal agencies, the States were advised to accord priority to the development of agro-food industries in their States and provide requisite incentives. They were also advised to prepare specific schemes keeping the potential and the State resources in view. As per available information, almost all States have declared food processing industries as a thrust area and are providing varying types of incentives in different States. These incentives inter-alia include exemption/refund of sales tax, capital subsidies, subsidy or exemption of electricity duty, seed capital assistance for small units, subsidy on term loan, assistance for market promotion, etc. Many States are providing funds to their State public sector undertakings/ corporations for promoting food processing industries in the public sector/joint sector/assisted sector.

Indian Citizens in Pakistani Jails

*596. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of Indian citizens at present languishing in Pakistani jails;

(b) under what offences and since when each of them has been detained;

(c) what are the details of the Army and Air Force personnel missing since 1971 war or otherwised detained in Pakistani jails, since when they have been detained there, and what is their present position;

(d) what are the details of the steps Government have so far taken for the release/exchange of Indian prisoners; and

(e) the number of Indian prisoners released/exchanged with Pakistani prisoners since 1971 war?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (e) According to available information there are at present 1213 Indian prisoners in Pakistani jails. The Indian nationals are detained on various grounds including alleged transgression of local laws or overstay of visa period in Pakistan; apprehension in the waters in the region where the Indo-Pak maritime boundary is yet to be determined; straying across the IB and LOC, etc.